



Art Experiences For Little Fingers



Open-Ended Art Experiences that Help Young Children Explore Their World



Includes:

-  Helpful hints for the teacher/parent
-  Developmentally appropriate activities
-  Readily available materials



SPECIAL TIPS and Ideas

FOR PRESENTING ART EXPERIENCES TO YOUNG CHILDREN

- ✎ **ALWAYS supervise art experiences.** Even nontoxic art materials can cause problems. Do not let children taste anything unless you know for sure that it is safe!
- ✎ **ALWAYS** sit with your children and enjoy the experience with them.
- ✎ Art is a time for exploring and discovery. Do not be surprised if your little ones decide to use the art materials in ways that you did not consider.
- ✎ Spray a cooking spray on the inside of the glue lid tips. This will help to prevent clogging.
- ✎ Inexpensive vinyl table cloths are good to keep on hand for messy projects.
- ✎ Before children can learn to print, they need to develop their fine motor skills and increase their eye-hand coordination. Lacing cards and stringing beads are specific activities designed to promote this development.
- ✎ Put tape on the bottoms of new crayon boxes so that the bottoms will not fall out.
- ✎ An old shower curtain on the floor or table is great for catching spills.
- ✎ Add a few drops of liquid soap to any tempera paint. This will make clean up easier.
- ✎ Cover an entire table with butcher paper and let your little ones enjoy coloring over the whole table top!
- ✎ Record a favorite story, or play a commercially recorded story, while the children are "creating art."
- ✎ Play classical music when your children are busy creating. Research indicates that children who are exposed to classical music have a better chance of obtaining higher math and science scores when they reach school.



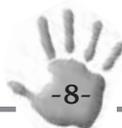


- ✎ Save yogurt cups to serve as disposable paint containers.
- ✎ Proudly display the creative work of your children. On pages 63 and 64 are reproducible display frames. You can mount the pictures and tape them to a refrigerator, bulletin board, wall or door.
- ✎ Children can create their own private art galleries with self-stick cork squares, found at many home improvement stores. The squares can be placed on any wall or surface. The children will be able to arrange and rearrange their artwork in these cork squares.
- ✎ Home improvement stores or paint stores now carry “chalkboard paint.” Chalkboard paint can be applied to any wall, at the appropriate height for a child, and creates a surface that is easily washed. How much fun to get to write on the wall and not be in trouble!
- ✎ Children love to paint. Here are some interesting alternative items that can be used as paintbrushes:
 - ❖ bark
 - ❖ brushes
 - ❖ combs
 - ❖ cotton balls
 - ❖ cotton swabs
 - ❖ eyedroppers
 - ❖ feathers
 - ❖ shoe polish applicators
 - ❖ spray bottles
 - ❖ spoons and forks
 - ❖ squeeze bottles
 - ❖ string
 - ❖ pipe cleaners
 - ❖ fly swatters
 - ❖ food
 - ❖ ice
 - ❖ marbles
 - ❖ pipe cleaners
 - ❖ roll-on deodorant bottles
- ✎ **ALWAYS REMEMBER:** With young children, the importance of the art experience is in the process, not in the final product.

metric conversions

IF YOU PREFER METRIC MEASUREMENTS. THE ART RECIPES IN THIS BOOK CAN EASILY BE CREATED BY MAKING A FEW SIMPLE CONVERSIONS:

1/4 teaspoon = 1.25 ml	1/4 cup = 60 ml	1 cup = 240 ml	1 foot = 30.48 cm
1/2 teaspoon = 2.5 ml	1/3 cup = 80 ml	2 cups = 475 ml	350°F = 150°C
1 teaspoon = 5 ml	1/2 cup = 120 ml	1/2 inch = 1.25 cm	400°F = 200°C
1 tablespoon = 15 ml	2/3 cup = 160 ml	1 inch = 2.5 cm	
1 fluid ounce = 30 ml	3/4 cup = 180 ml		
9" x 13" baking pan = 23 cm x 32 cm baking tin			





SUPER EASY FINGER PAINTS

Think back to your childhood memories of finger painting. Most adults have fond recollections of the experience. Feeling the texture and watching the movement of the paint on the paper is a tremendous sensory experience for a small child. Here are some easy-to-make finger paint recipes that will provide you and your eager little artist with hours of fun!

Recipe one

you will need: liquid starch
powdered tempera paint
large mixing bowl
spoon or other utensil for stirring
finger paint paper



what you do: Simply add the powdered tempera paint to the liquid starch until you have achieved the desired color. That's it! You are ready to paint!

Recipe two

you will need: 1/2 cup boiling water
2 tablespoons dry starch
6 tablespoons cold water
food coloring
pan
spoon or other utensil for stirring
finger paint paper

what you do: Dissolve the starch in the cold water. Add this mixture to the boiling water, stirring constantly. Heat the mixture until it becomes glossy. Add the food coloring and stir well. Let it cool completely before the children use it.

extra tips



TIP 1: For an easier cleanup, add a small amount of liquid dish washing detergent to the finger paint. Although the cleanup is easier, make sure the children still wear a paint smock or one of dad's old shirts!

TIP 2: Always make sure that you are finger painting on the shiny side of the paper.

ALWAYS SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN WHEN USING PAINT!





“Smelly” Finger Paints

Finger painting is more than a tactile experience; it can also be a multi-sensory experience. The child is feeling the paint, seeing the paint, and with this mixture, smelling the paint. These finger paints may smell good enough to eat, but don't let the children snack on their art work!

Thick Minty Finger Paint

you will need: wallpaper paste or wheat paste
water
food coloring
oil of wintergreen
large mixing bowl
spoon or other utensil for stirring
finger paint paper



what you do: Mix the wallpaper paste or wheat paste with water until you have a thin paste. Add the food coloring and a few drops of oil of wintergreen. For more fun, try adding other scents, such as vanilla, peppermint, lemon, or almond.

Clove-scented Finger Paint

you will need: 1 cup sugar
2 cups flour
2 cups cold water
6 cups boiling water
1 tablespoon boric acid
oil of cloves
food coloring
pan
large mixing bowl
spoon or other utensil for stirring
finger paint paper

what you do: Mix the flour and cold water together. Add the sugar and stir until smooth. Add the flour, cold water and sugar mixture to the 6 cups of boiling water, stirring constantly until thick. Remove from the heat and add 1 tablespoon of boric acid and several drops of the oil of cloves. Stir in the food coloring and then store the paint in sealed containers.

extra tips



Tip 1: You can also use brushes or sponges with finger paint.

Tip 2: Spread the finger paint all over the paper and practice printing letters, numbers, or drawing pictures.



“Texture” Finger Paints

Provide experiences that let your child experiment with different textures. Some children think these “funny” textures are really interesting; others will not like the strange sensation of something that feels rough. Remember to be sensitive to the reaction of your child. The following “gritty” experience can either be a lot of fun or an activity that you will not repeat!

gritty finger paint

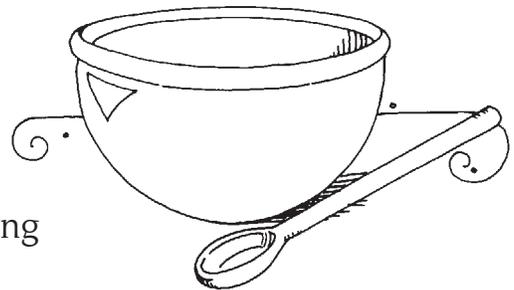
you will need: 1 cup flour
1 cup water
food coloring
1 to 1-1/2 cups of salt or sand
large mixing bowl
spoon or another utensil for stirring
finger paint paper



what you do: Combine the flour and salt or sand. Add the water and stir until thoroughly mixed. Add the food coloring one drop at a time until you achieve the desired color.

silky smooth finger paint

you will need: 1/4 cup salt
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1 cup water
pan
spoon or other utensil for stirring
finger paint paper



what you do: Mix the water, salt, and cornstarch in a pan and bring it to a boil. Keep stirring until the mixture is the consistency of yogurt. If you want to make a variety of colors, divide the mixture and place it in different containers and add the food coloring. When cool, this mixture will feel smooth and silky.

extra tip



Tip 1: The paint will last several weeks if it is put in tightly sealed containers or plastic bags and put in a refrigerator.

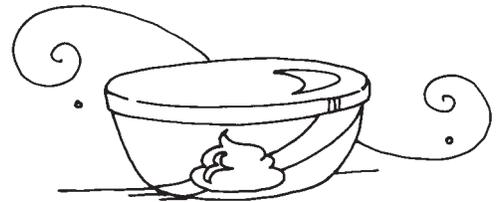


“edible” Finger Paints

Many young children have not outgrown the temptation to put everything into their mouths. Here are some fun finger paint recipes that can actually be tasted. Although these recipes are titled “edible,” encourage your child to just taste the paint and not to eat the entire artistic creation!

Wonderful Whipped Cream Creations

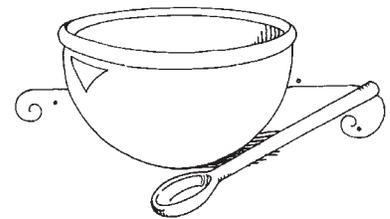
you will need: Coolwhip™ whipped cream
food coloring
large mixing bowl
spoon or another
utensil for stirring
thick paper or paper plate



what you do: Combine only a drop or two of food coloring with the whipped cream. Too much food coloring can make the whipped cream runny—and it is not good for children to consume too much food coloring. Just a taste, please!

Super Sticky Finger Paint

you will need: corn syrup
food coloring
various containers for storing paint
mixing bowls
spoon or other utensil for stirring
finger paint paper



what you do: Mix the corn syrup with only a drop or two of food coloring. Mix well, and then store in air-tight containers or zip-sealed plastic bags. You can create a variety of colors and store for future use. This finger paint is very sticky when wet, but when it dries, it will no longer feel sticky and will look incredibly shiny.

extra tip



TIP 1: WARNING!

Anytime a flavored gelatin is used, it will stain fingertips (which will eventually come clean) and can stain clothes and laminated counters. Be careful— but have fun!

